

Research and Innovation Overview 2024

Department of English

The Department of English at Maynooth University is a vibrant hub of research, dedicated to advancing knowledge across a diverse range of literary fields. With a strong commitment to academic excellence, our faculty engages in innovative research that spans traditional literary studies to contemporary cultural phenomena. The department prides itself on fostering a collaborative environment for both staff and students, nurturing critical inquiry and creativity.

Head of Department: Dr Conrad Brunstrom



Research Themes and Focus Areas

The department's research is structured around key thematic pillars that reflect our expertise and areas of innovation. These include:

- **Digital Shakespeare Studies:** Dr Stephen O'Neill is at the forefront of research in digital Shakespeare, exploring how digital technologies intersect with literary analysis.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Dr Michael Cronin's research delves into the intersection of literature and wellbeing, investigating how literary works contribute to understanding health narratives.
- **Heritage, Culture, and Language:** All members of the department are deeply invested in studying cultural heritage and linguistic diversity, with special attention to literature's role in shaping historical and contemporary identities.
- **Global Migration:** Dr Ritir Sakr's research focuses on migration, a pressing global issue, analyzing its portrayal in literature and its broader implications for public policy.
- **The Anthropocene and Environmental Humanities:** Faculty members such as Professor Pat Palmer, Dr Stephen O'Neill, Dr Ida Corley, and Professor Moynagh Sullivan are engaged in studying the Anthropocene era, examining literature's response to environmental changes.



Significant Research Outputs

In 2023, the Department of English celebrated numerous research achievements, including the publication of six book chapters and two peer-reviewed journal articles.

- Dr Catherine Gander served as sole editor of the highly acclaimed volume, *The Edinburgh Companion to Don DeLillo and the Arts*, published by Edinburgh University Press
- Professor Lauren Arrington co-edited an important collection – *The Oxford Handbook of W. B. Yeats* published by Oxford University Press.
- There were numerous contributions to interdisciplinary work that spans literature, history, and environmental studies, highlighting the department's diverse scholarly output.



Collaborations and Partnerships

The department actively collaborates with a range of institutions and scholars internationally. These partnerships foster interdisciplinary research and contribute to the department's reputation as a global leader in literary studies. Notable collaborations include:

- Partnerships with universities across Europe and North America, focusing on global migration and environmental humanities.
- Joint research projects that engage with the **digital humanities** and innovative teaching methods in literary studies.



Research Impact and Societal Contributions

The research conducted in the Department of English addresses some of the most urgent issues of our time. From exploring the cultural implications of global migration to examining how literature responds to environmental crises, our work contributes significantly to public discourse. The focus on health and wellbeing also underscores the relevance of literature in understanding human experiences in times of personal and societal challenges.



Future Directions

Looking forward, the department aims to expand its research into digital humanities and further explore the intersections of literature with contemporary global issues such as climate change and migration. The continued focus on interdisciplinary collaborations will drive the department's future growth, fostering innovation in literary research and pedagogy.

The Department of English at Maynooth University is a leading research centre, committed to producing work that is not only academically rigorous but also impactful on a global scale. We invite academic colleagues to engage with us in our pursuit of advancing literary studies in an ever-evolving world.